

# Crime Prevention Newsletter



Casa Grande Police Department —373 East Val Vista Blvd. —(520) 421-8700

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## Chief's Message

*Chief of Police Johnny Cervantes*



The Holiday season is upon us! For most, it is a happy time to spend exchanging our most valuable gift - time. Time spent with family and friends is truly the most precious gift we have to share with one another. Although this gift is shared daily, it is the holiday season that reminds us to stop and celebrate this time and to reflect on how fortunate we are to have those we love and cherish.

We are all busy this season, with shopping and gift wrapping, traveling and visiting relatives, and enjoying wonderful meals together. As we go about our daily rituals, please take a moment to remember those who have sacrificed so much in our community. It is because of their love and generosity that we are able to enjoy this season.

As your Police Chief, I feel I have a responsibility to always be looking at ways to make our community safer. I can't think of a more important way than to talk about important subjects and issues facing our community. Please remember to wear your seatbelts, don't text and drive, and, of course, don't drink and drive. Enjoy your gift of time and have a wonderful holiday!

## City Contacts

(Area Code is 520)

Animal Control	426-9300
Building	421-8630
City Attorney	421-8600
City Clerk	421-8608
City Court	421-8675
City Manager	421-8600
Finance	421-8601
Fire Department	421-8777
Golf Course	836-9216
Housing	421-8670
Human Resources	421-8600
Landfill	421-8628
Library	421-8710
Parks & Recreation	421-8677
Planning & Zoning	421-8637
Public Works	421-8625
Senior Center	421-8760



The Christmas season is a time for giving, and that is exactly what the Casa Grande Police Officers Trust Fund does every year – GIVE!

Each year, the Officers of the Trust Fund collect food and gifts to give to Casa Grande families in need. Last year, we were able to provide a full meal and plenty of gifts to 10 families. This year, the Trust Fund plans to provide the same for at least 10 more families.

The Casa Grande Police Officers Trust Fund exists to serve our Police Officers and their families in times of emergency. It is with great pride and honor that we share our Christmas Spirit with others in our community. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

## Trees Of All Kinds - Dr. Bob Cornelius, Chaplain/Counselor



The staff members in our Police Department Records Office have a tree that is always on display. The tree does not change basically. However, its decorations do. One day it has decorations for Halloween, then there is Christmas and the other special days in December. I do not remember any special treatment of Passover, but they did have an Independence Day Tree. Who knows what they will have next.

December is a special month for many people of faith who express their joy in different ways and remember

the spiritual messages that make life meaningful. (Hanukkah starts in November this year but usually is in December.)

December with its special days is a time of reflection not only about our relationship to God, but to others. It is a time of giving of gifts that bring joy to children. But it is also a time of personal reflection and the re-dedication of our lives to those relationships that enrich us, both human and spiritual.

Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas,  
and Joyous Kwanzaa!

## Holiday Crime Prevention - Thomas Anderson, Crime Prevention Officer



Still holiday shopping? This is a busy time of year for all of us, and the criminal element is no exception. Make this a safe and joyous season by following these helpful tips offered by our friends at the National Crime Prevention Council.

### Shopping in Stores

- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or asking a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Save all receipts. Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
- Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as one-time or multi-use disposable credit cards or money orders, at online stores and auction sites.
- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account information.

- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.

### Walking to and From Your Car

- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or keep your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.

### Shopping with Small Children

- If you are shopping with children, make a plan in case you are separated from each other.
- Select a central meeting place.
- Teach them to know they can ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.

## Shopping Online

- Before surfing the Internet, secure your personal computers by updating your security software. Everyone's computer should have anti-virus, anti-spyware, and anti-spam software, as well as a good firewall installed. Visit [www.bytecrime.org](http://www.bytecrime.org) for free software downloads.
- Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to "verify" your password, bank or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.
- Beware of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar– if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Use secure websites for purchases. Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.
- Shop with companies you know and trust. Check for background information if you plan to buy from a new or unfamiliar company.



## OffenderWatch Program - Criminal Investigation Division



The Casa Grande Police Department recently announced that they are the newest Arizona law enforcement agency to implement "OffenderWatch"

to manage registered sex offenders in the Casa Grande community and make effective community notifications.

OffenderWatch enables Arizona law enforcement agencies to collaborate and share information with law enforcement partners statewide, to include Sheriff's Offices, Police Departments, and others. This information sharing provides all law enforcement agencies all the information concerning sex offender movements, history and activities anywhere in the county, state or country.

The Casa Grande Police Department is also now making available on their web site, a citizen-friendly, very easy to use, sex offender registry, enabling citizens to search for the presence of registered sex offenders in proximity

to their homes, places of work, schools and day care sites.

OffenderWatch also provides Community Notifications that go to all citizens in close proximity to offender addresses, as required by Arizona law.

Citizens may also confidentially register to be notified if a specific offender, who they wish to track, moves from his present address. Citizens may register as many addresses as they like at no cost to them.

Citizens may access the Casa Grande Police Department OffenderWatch, a Community Web Page, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the Casa Grande Police Department web site at <http://casagrandeaz.us/dept/police>.



## Combating DUI During The Holiday Season - Traffic Unit



The CGPD, Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, and local law enforcement agencies are gearing up to combat impaired driving during the holiday season. Our goal is to remove impaired drivers from our streets thru education and enforcement efforts. AZGOHS has awarded CGPD \$20,000 in overtime funds so additional officers can focus on arresting impaired drivers. Also, AZGOHS awarded our department with \$16,000 for equipment to assist us with our enforcement efforts. Police officers will be out in force to remove any motorist who chooses to drive impaired.

For those who are going to drink this holiday season please be responsible and have a plan in place prior to drinking so you get home safely. Have a designated

driver, or hire a driver (taxi) to take you to and from an event or bar, or stay at a hotel within walking distance. It is cheaper to pay for a taxi, or a hotel room than pay fines, tow & storage bills, vehicle breath inter-lock device, time off work, insurance rate increase, and potential jail time. It's estimated a first time DUI arrest can cost upwards of \$20,000.

Please remember that while the fun and parties are there to be enjoyed, don't let them turn into a night in jail or worse a night in the hospital. help us to ensure everybody has a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

### LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS:

- Alcohol-impaired motor vehicle crashes cost more than an estimated \$37 billion annually.
- In 2010, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes - one every 51 minutes.

## The Holiday Season And Youth - Officer Matt Duran, School Resource Officer



As we enter the Holidays and the numerous parties you and your child will attend, it is important to be aware that social drinking, although legal for adults over 21, is a prime atmosphere for curious youth to "Sneak" a taste of a mixed alcoholic beverage or hard liquor that adults are enjoying at these parties.

Watchful care of where these packaged and mixed beverages are located during festivities will help adults make sure that curiosity will not get the best of any youth wondering about what some adults are imbibing. Communicate with your child. Talk about the legal aspects involved with underage drinking, as well as the negative results of drinking and driving.

Be sure to speak of the damage alcohol abuse can cause to a person's body no matter what age the abuse begins. Talk about the long term effects on brain and vital organ

function.

Fostering dialog as to why they should not try recreational drinking at a young age will help your teen grow into a healthy and productive adult.



## Citizen Police Academy - Wendy Lloyd, Volunteer Coordinator



The Casa Grande Police Department Volunteer Unit is comprised of over 140 citizens from our community. These volunteers assist us in our daily operations in areas such as office and clerical, fleet management, traffic control, and community outreach, just to name a few.

Every year, our Department hosts at least two Citizen Police Academies. This Academy is great way to educate citizens about their local police department. Our next Academy starts on January 7th and goes through February 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes are held at the Department, located at 373 East Val Vista Boulevard, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 - 9:00 pm throughout the 5 weeks. This also gives citizens the opportunity to learn about great ways to volunteer with the Casa Grande Police Department. Each night there are three instructors from various divi-

sions teaching the ins and outs of police work. Space is limited to 35 people.

If you are interested in attending the Academy or volunteering, please contact Wendy Lloyd at the Casa Grande Police Department at 520-421-8711 ext. 6140.



## Keep Your Pets Safe During The Holidays - Linda Garcia, Animal Care and Control Supervisor



The City of Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center reminds you to keep your pets safe during the holiday season. The City of Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center offers

the following pet tips to ensure that your pet stays safe, healthy and happy during the holiday season:

### DO NOT:

- Over feed him
- Feed him candy and chocolate
- Give him turkey bones
- Ignore him
- Give him tinsel or other decorations to play with
- Give a pet as a gift

### DO:

- Buy him a gift too
- Specially made dog/cat toys and treats work best
- Shower him with love and attention by taking him for a walk on a leash
- Buy him a dog license & a new collar to keep him identified in case he gets lost

- Consider adopting him a playmate once the holiday season is over
- Make it a family event
- Keep him inside and secure from open doors, crowds, and unfamiliar people
- Try to stick to your pet's regular routine and schedule.

If you have lost or found a pet, please call The City of Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center @ (520) 426-9300 and leave a message. We will call you back.

The City Of Casa Grande Animal Care and Adoption Center wish you and your pets a safe and happy holiday season.





## That's A Ton Of Drugs - Tammy McCarville, Prescription Drug Project Coordinator, CG Alliance



The Casa Grande Police Department deserves a big THANK YOU for their efforts in fighting the prescription drug epidemic that is facing Pinal County! CGPD was one of the first law enforcement agencies in Pinal County to install medication drop boxes.

There are now two boxes: one at the Val Vista station and one at the downtown site on Marshall Street. (Note: this one been temporarily moved to the Fire Department during remodeling of the CGPD communications center.)

But CGPD is not alone in this fight. The Pinal County Substance Abuse Council consists of 10 community coalitions, plus Pinal County Department heads/representatives interested in drug prevention (such as the County Attorney, Public Health, Probation, and Sheriff's Department). The Council partnered with the Governor's Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership and the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission to implement

The Pinal County Prescription Drug Reduction Initiative. Pinal County has been a pilot site for this Initiative since October 2012.

Working with these partners there are now 16 medication drop boxes placed throughout Pinal County, collecting 1,869 pounds of medicines in the past twelve months; that's almost a "ton of drugs"! Casa Grande residents alone have contributed over 238 pounds since the Initiative began last October. You can help us reach our goal of "a ton of drugs" by the end of 2013 by disposing of old and unused medications. Simply bring your old prescription and over-the-counter medicines to either police station and drop them into the green metal container in the lobby. (No sharps or inhalers, please).

For proper disposal information or more on the Rx drug epidemic that is facing our county please visit [www.casagrandealliance.org](http://www.casagrandealliance.org).

## Making Positive Choices Popular - Breanna Boland, Prevention Specialist, CG Alliance



Many youth in Casa Grande are exposed to alcohol and other drugs. The Casa Grande Alliance, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) members from both Casa

Grande Union and Vista Grande High Schools, and many other organizations around Casa Grande are working hard to help youth make positive decisions when it comes to using drugs and alcohol. The Casa Grande Alliance, SADD and community organizations work hard to instill the message Drugs: Not Now, Not Ever into every 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student they meet. Every year, for the past five, all nine elementary schools in the Casa Grande district have participated in an anti-drug rally. Anti-drug rallies consist of chants, skits, songs, and a life balloon activity.

At the end of an anti-drug rally every 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student is given a "life" balloon. They are instructed to fill

their life balloon with positive life experiences and hold on to it tightly. Students are giving the message that by choosing to try drugs a person is releasing control over their life. The kids are then instructed to hold the balloon in the air and let go. The balloons shoot around the room amongst much laughter. The group then discusses the experience, what was lost out of their life balloons, and why.

When asked, even up to five years after seeing a rally, approximately 95% of Casa Grande students can repeat the rally motto of *Drugs: Not now, Not ever* and still believe in the message. The pro-social involvement of the SADD members, and the collaboration between the Casa Grande Alliance and community organizations, is the key ingredients to making the anti-drug rallies successful.

For more information about anti-drug rallies, Casa Grande SADD, or the Casa Grande Alliance please visit the website [www.casagrandealliance.org](http://www.casagrandealliance.org).

## Alarm & Graffiti Abatement Programs - Sheila Chavez, Graffiti & Alarm Coordinator



Summer days have come and gone and our population is at it's peak with the many winter visitors who come to enjoy our warm climate. It is also the time that we find ourselves enjoying the company of our loved ones and spending more time at home. Please remember to operate your alarm system responsibly. Instruct all users on how to use the system with proper pass codes and passwords in order to avoid false alarms. 'Tis the season of giving...but not giving to the City of Casa Grande for false alarm cost recovery fees!

Happy Holidays to you all. For more information, please visit the Alarm Unit page at [www.casagrandeaz.us](http://www.casagrandeaz.us)



Graffiti is not art, graffiti is ugly! Don't allow yourself to be a victim. If your property is vandalized, call the Police Department to file a report and then contact the Graffiti Abatement Program for help.

If you are a business, call police to report and then designate an employee to do a daily check of your property for graffiti and remove any graffiti right away.

If you have any questions or need assistance, call the Graffiti Abatement Coordinator at (520) 421-8711 ext. 6570 or visit the Graffiti Unit at [www.casagrandeaz.us](http://www.casagrandeaz.us)

**"Happy Holidays from all of us  
here at the Casa Grande Police Department"**



## Important Police Department Numbers & Internet Sites

(Area Code is 520)

- |                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Police (Emergency)           | 911                |
| • Police (Non-Emergency)       | 421-8700           |
| • Crime Prevention Unit        | 421-8711 ext. 6760 |
| • Volunteer Unit               | 421-8711 ext. 6140 |
| • Traffic/School Resource Unit | 421-8711 ext. 6370 |
| • Graffiti/Alarm Unit          | 421-8711 ext. 6570 |



[www.facebook.com/cgpolice](http://www.facebook.com/cgpolice)



[www.twitter.com/casagrandepd](http://www.twitter.com/casagrandepd)



[www.casagrandesilentwitness.com](http://www.casagrandesilentwitness.com)

Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter can be forwarded to the Crime Prevention Unit:

Officer Thomas Anderson, Public Information Officer  
Crime Prevention Office  
Casa Grande Police Department  
373 E. Val Vista Blvd.  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122  
(520) 421-8711 Ext 6760  
[tanderson@ci.casa-grande.az.us](mailto:tanderson@ci.casa-grande.az.us)

## Upcoming Events

- Motorcycle Toy Run and Auction - December 1<sup>st</sup>, Noon at Dave White Park
- Electric Light Parade - December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. at Colorado Street and Florence Boulevard.
- Casa Grande Main Street 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Downtown Street Fair and Car Show - January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.